



DOWNTOWN TASK FORCE MINUTES

An Advisory Group to the City Council

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

5:30 PM, Main Street Library

Council Members: Mayor Connie Boardman (Chair), Council Member Joe Carchio, Council Member Jim Katapodis

Task Force Members: Meg Bernardo, Kim Kramer, Ron Newman, Ralph Palomares, Susie Smith, Michael Wentworth, Cathy Werblin, Stephanie Wilson

Absent: Brett Barnes, Domenic Iorfino, Moe Kanoudi , Cesar Pena

City Staff: Jennifer McGrath, Police Chief Ken Small, Fire Chief Patrick McIntosh, Scott Hess, Travis Hopkins, Kellee Fritzal, Chris Cole, Simone Slifman, Bob Stachelski, Jennifer Villasenor

Vice Chair Jim Katapodis called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

1. Public Comments

Gloria Alvarez invited the public to attend the ceremony on November 23 at 10:00 AM during which the bronze plaques at Triangle Park and the Main Street Library will be unveiled in honor of their placement on the National Register of Historic Places.

Dixie Terry spoke regarding Seacliff Rehabilitation Center in the downtown.

Debra Thompson thanked the Mayor and the Council Members that voted for rejecting the new alcohol permit submitted for a downtown business.

Dan Gleason of Community Services Programs, Inc. informed the Task Force that CSP is working on a new project called "Operation Safe HB" and announced an upcoming free training for restaurant and bar owners.

Mike Heh thanked the Mayor and City Council for approving a zoning text amendment capping off-site alcohol sales and for rejecting a new alcohol license submitted for a downtown business and hopes that concrete steps will continue by the Task Force.

2. Approval of October 24, 2013 Minutes

The minutes were approved as submitted.

3. Discussion of Public Safety

a) Consider modification to City Council Resolution 2013-24 (Alcohol/Entertainment Permit Regulations) along with adding 2012-24 as a Zoning Text Amendment to the Downtown Specific Plan.

Task Force members discussed various aspects of the Resolution. City Attorney Jennifer McGrath and Police Chief Ken Small indicated that some items within the Resolution are already contained within the Huntington Beach Municipal Code and could not be placed into a zoning text amendment. A vote was taken by the Task Force to recommend to the City Council that Resolution 2013-24 become a zoning text amendment with the exception of those items which are already contained within the Huntington Beach Municipal Code. Six votes were cast in support of the recommendation and five votes were cast in opposition. This item will be recommended to the City Council.

b) Discussion of creation of Sub-Committee on Public Safety

This item was not discussed.

4. Parking

a) Presentation on Residential Parking Permits

Transportation Manager Bob Stachelski provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding residential parking permit processes in the coastal and non-coastal zone. Information presented included the purposes of permit parking, including the benefit of increased enforcement, and that it limits parking from people who are not in the district, but that it does not guarantee a parking space to residents. He also indicated the various costs associated with establishing the district, which are primarily related to preparing and installing signage. The presentation also included specific detail of the differences of establishing the district within the coastal and non-coastal zones. Member Kim Kramer volunteered to assume responsibility for attempting to acquire the required support of those within the proposed new parking permit district(s) by following the procedures identified by the Public Works Department. The Mayor, after costs are established, will approach late-night businesses within District 1 to discuss the possibility of participating financially in the cost of establishing the district. Parameters are being reviewed as to the percentage of signatures needed. Member Kramer will also examine the existing maps he prepared of the proposed areas, which may need revision to propose expansion to Huntington Street as well as others as discussed during the meeting.

b) Consideration of opening beach parking lots in the evening/late night

Police Chief Ken Small and Fire Chief Patrick McIntosh presented information about the request by the Task Force to consider opening the beach parking lots in the evenings/late nights to provide an option to those visiting downtown. Both Chiefs expressed a number safety concerns with opening the lots, including increased risks of drowning due to drinking, lack of staffing, conflicts of maintenance and perception that

the beach is open after 10 PM, when it is, in actuality, closed. Based upon the Chiefs' concerns, the item was removed from consideration for items to be recommended to the City Council.

5. Public Comments

Richardson Gray encouraged the Task Force to include the Coastal Zone within the permit parking district.

Deb Gable inquired as to the push back of additional parking issues into the area of 17th Street and indicated it could be a concern to neighbors in that area.

Mike Heh inquired about the boundaries of the proposed parking district, including the possibility of expanding to Huntington Street.

Steve Daniel recommended adding two additional taxi stops in District 1 to help alleviate fights and pedestrian congestion at the existing stops.

Barbara Delgleize asked whether the training being provided by CSP, Inc. as presented by Dan Gleason during earlier public comments was a mandatory training. Mr. Gleason indicated that this is not a mandatory training.

6. Future Agenda Items

Member Kim Kramer inquired about the content of Downtown Task Force meeting agendas themselves and whether they can be worded to encompass an entire topic or range of a subject without being too limiting. Mayor Boardman and City Attorney McGrath indicated that it is possible to do so, and reiterated prior direction about engaging in unagendized discussions which result in action being taken, which would be a violation of the Brown Act.

Member Ralph Palomares asked for a status update on the improvements to the Main Promenade Parking Structure. Member Kim Kramer recommended a book written by the individual presenting the CSP, Inc. training. He also stated that the Council's denial of alcohol for a business in District 1 shows support for the efforts of the Task Force and that the recent appeal of outdoor sales in the downtown relates to the information in the HBDRA's report which mentions the Broken Window Theory. Council Member Katapodis provided a reminder of the plaque dedication event on November 23 at 10:00 AM.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM. The next meeting of the Downtown Task Force is scheduled for Thursday, December 5 at 5:30 PM at the Main Street Library.